

It is unnecessary for me to say anything in praise of Joseph Pollinger; his reputation is known to you all, but I would like to say how very satisfactorily his son, Adolph Pollinger, acquitted himself on what was his first introduction to ice and snow. It was a somewhat severe test of a young man without previous experience, but he proved himself a worthy member of his family, and should have a great future before him.

It may be of interest to mention that I found no difficulty travelling, and was quite as comfortable as at any time previous to the war. It is well, however, to leave one's self a rather larger margin of time at stations, and of course to have all one's papers strictly in order.

I am greatly indebted to the members of the Club who have so kindly assisted me and lent me slides, particularly to the nephew of our former president, the late Mr. Woolley, who sent me a number of his uncle's slides, Mr. Howard Priestman, Major Thurston Holland, Mr. Aitken, Mr. Shea and others.

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AROUND LAKE LOUISE IN 1919<sup>1</sup>  
WITH ASCENTS OF MTS. KING GEORGE AND ASSINIBOINE  
(CANADIAN ROCKIES).

BY V. A. FYNN.

WE reached Lake Louise July 23. The first few days were devoted to training trips. I traversed Mt. Whyte (9786 ft.) alone on the 24th. On the 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Fynn, Rudolph Aemmer and myself went to Abbot's Pass (9588 ft.) and back. Throughout this period, the weather was uncertain.

On July 29 Rudolph and I took a boy about 17 up Mt. Aberdeen (10,840 ft.) by way of the ice fall<sup>2</sup> of the Aberdeen glacier which comes down between Aberdeen and Haddo. This glacier lies at the head of the beautiful little valley which descends to Paradise Creek between Fairview and Saddleback on one side, and Haddo and Sheol on the other. Rudolph

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<sup>1</sup> See 'A.J.' xxxii. 314 for map.

<sup>2</sup> The photograph facing p. 71 of 'A.J.' xxxii. gives a good view of this fall. All of the route followed is visible.

Aemmer and Edward Feuz, the two Swiss guides stationed at Lake Louise, some years ago reached the snow saddle between Haddo and Aberdeen, from the foot of the ice fall in question, by taking to the steep and somewhat rotten rocks to the east of same. It was our intention to repeat this route, but when we reached the foot of this rock wall at about 12.30, having left the hotel at 7.50 A.M., we found that the whole face was alive with falling rocks and an attempt to scale it would have been foolhardy. This condition was brought about by the unusually small amount of snow, and was to give us considerable trouble in practically every ascent which we made in 1919. The trouble, of course, became worse as the season progressed. In these conditions, we had either to descend the Aberdeen glacier until it became possible to traverse to the foot of the Haddo glacier and reach Aberdeen over Haddo, as I had done in 1917, or force a passage through the ice fall. Inspection of the latter showed it to be in a condition favourable to such an attempt, and we started immediately. On the left or eastern side of the fall, is a narrow ice gully next to a very high and almost perpendicular ice cliff. This seemed to be the most suitable way of reaching the middle portion of the ice fall, which was much broken up and did not seem to present any difficulties. Rudolph started cutting; but, owing to a little overhang, was presently forced to stand on my shoulders; while, higher, I was able with my hands to steady his feet in the ice steps. The middle portion of the ice fall proved easy and we made good progress, keeping to the right and away from the steep cliff, about the security of which we were not very certain. Presently we were stopped by a very deep chasm, running almost horizontally across the entire fall. The lower lip of this chasm had effectively concealed it up to this time. We were now forced to traverse back to the left, balancing on the narrow edge of this lower lip, and finally emerged on easy ground well above the highest cliff previously referred to. The saddle between Haddo and Aberdeen was reached about 2.30, and after some luncheon we topped Aberdeen at 3.35. Leaving at 4, Haddo (10,073 ft.) was reached at 4.30 and the cabin on Saddleback at 7, by way of the Haddo glacier. I thought I was now ready for some of the better expeditions, but the weather was so uncertain that nothing serious could be undertaken.

In the meantime Mr. Eddy suggested that we go on a camping trip to the Royal Group, and visit Assiniboine on the way. The Potts Outfitting Co. of Morley undertook

to supply us with an outfit, and their horses were all in fine condition, and the men proved able and agreeable companions.

#### THE ROYAL GROUP.

The Royal Group is almost due south of Banff, at a distance of about forty miles as the crow flies. Our attention was called to this group by reports of surveyors, and particularly by the Report of the Commission appointed to delimit the Boundary between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, the first part of which was published in 1917. In this Report Mr. A. O. Wheeler shows a photograph of the whole range taken from Mt. McHarg, which lies on the east side of the Palliser River Valley. It appears that the highest peak of this group, the number of prominent peaks of which happens to coincide with the number of members of the Royal Family, was first seen by Mr. Wheeler in 1913 from WONDER PEAK (9300 ft.), which lies north of Marvel Lake, east of Mt. Assiniboine and some twenty miles north of the Royal Group. Mr. Wheeler tells me that he named this peak 'Mt. King George' at that time. Later, during his survey work, he came within five or six miles of the group, located it on the map, and ascertained the heights of the main peaks. The group is about five miles long, and, in the main, runs parallel to the Palliser Valley where the course of the latter is almost due south. The most easterly summit, MT. PRINCE GEORGE, (9450 ft.) is the lowest. Next to it in height is MT. PRINCESS MARY (10,090 ft.), the most southerly peak. All the others are above 10,500 ft. and MT. KING GEORGE is 11,226 ft.

We decided to approach the group by following the Spray river to Palliser Pass (6836 ft.). On August 1, I left Lake Louise for Banff, with the intention of supervising our final arrangements. The rest of the party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Fynn, and Rudolph, followed by the first train next day. The weather improved somewhat towards noon, but we were unable to leave until 3 P.M. owing to some unforeseen complications. Our chief pony-guide and cook was 'Waddy' Potts. Robert Baptie and Jack Fuller acted as horse wranglers. Our party of eight, and sixteen horses, started from Banff Springs Hotel and immediately struck south, following the eastern shore of the Spray river. After a few miles, the trail crosses the river on a recently built bridge and only rejoins it after the Spray lakes have been passed. That day we made camp at 7.30, well beyond

Canmore Gap, in a spot where water was very difficult to get (14 miles), the result of our late start. The next day we left at 10, and camped just beyond the second Spray lake (12 miles) on the shores of the Spray river, just where the trail branches to Kananaskis lakes. The fishermen of the party were unable to add much to the larder, as the Canmore miners had apparently fished the river dry. It began to rain during the night and rained steadily all the next day, so we decided not to move camp until next morning. A most enjoyable ride took us past the entrance to Bryant Creek (5 miles) in ever brightening weather. Beyond Bryant Creek, the trail was very rough for a couple of miles and we had some trouble with our pack-horses. Towards noon we found ourselves at the entrance of White Man Creek, and realised that we had missed the trail. Unfortunately we had been unable to secure detailed maps of this country, and now felt the need of one for the first time. As a matter of fact, we ought to have crossed to the eastern bank of the Spray,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles beyond Bryant Creek, just where the Currie and White Man creeks join it. We finally decided that the quickest way would be to strike due east across country. This was done and the right trail was soon struck. At this point the Spray Valley broadens out, and should permit a good view of the high peaks about Palliser Pass; but we could only guess at these, as the clouds were still very low. At 5 P.M. we made camp on the eastern slopes of the valley, just opposite Spray Pass and Leman Lake, which lies at its foot, but cannot be seen from the Spray Valley ( $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles).

On August 6, Rudolph and I left camp early, in order to study the country from Palliser Pass, now within  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles of us. We made the pass easily in two hours, left our horses near the monument, and climbed one of the hills to the east. From our last camp, and on our way up, we could see that Mt. SIR DOUGLAS (11,174 ft.), just east of the Palliser Pass, was a very fine peak, but the low drifting clouds never permitted a good view of the mountain. They continued to interfere with our investigations and, in the absence of a map, led us to the conclusion that the twin northerly peaks of the Royal Group—Prince John and Queen Mary—lay immediately behind Mt. BACK (9883 ft.) and an unnamed peak just south of Palliser Pass. The deep Palliser Valley, which we could overlook from our point of vantage, promised such rough going, and the open spaces and beautiful lakes on Palliser Pass looked so

attractive, that we decided to suggest to the rest of the party that our main camp be located on the pass. On the north side of Palliser Pass lies the Belgium Lake in an open fairly flat space, nearly one square mile in extent. Just beyond the pass, and on its southern side, are two lakes located one above the other. Back Lake is the larger and the higher. It is, in the main, fed from the glaciers which descend from Mt. Back, and from an unnamed peak to the east thereof, and is the real source of the Palliser River. Palliser Lake receives its water from Back Lake. Immediately west of Belgium Lake is Mt. QUEEN ELIZABETH (9849 ft.) with Mt. KING ALBERT (9800 ft.) behind it, and east of the lake is Mt. SIR DOUGLAS (11,174 ft.) with Mt. MONRO (10,145 ft.) immediately south thereof.

Looking down the Spray Valley, Mt. SMUTS (9600 ft.) is the only peak which attracts attention. It is a rock summit shaped like a sugar-loaf and looks quite difficult. Looking down the Palliser Valley from Palliser Pass, none of the Royal Group can be seen; but Mt. JOFFRE (11,816 ft.), some thirteen miles to the south and slightly east, is easily the most striking object in that region, although some of the other peaks east of Palliser Valley also look attractive.

The rest of the party arrived at 1 P.M., and camp was made just east of Belgium Lake and near its southern end. While Rudolph and I had been examining the neighbourhood, we discovered some goat on the eastern slopes of the unnamed peak east of Back; so, in the afternoon, Mr. Eddy, Rudolph, and I, went in that direction, not only to get a closer view of these interesting animals, but also to reconnoitre further in the direction of the Royal Group. We finally reached the southern ridge of the unnamed peak, and looked down upon Tipperary Creek and a large glacier at its head, which one might call Tipperary Glacier. At the head of this glacier, and to the south of it, stand two easy-looking peaks which, in the absence of a map, we took for Prince John and Queen Mary. As a matter of fact, the two last-named peaks are just about three miles directly beyond these peaks. After taking some photographs, we circled around the unnamed peak east of Back, and descended to Lake Back by the glacier just west of the unnamed peak. We felt pretty sure that the two peaks at the head of Tipperary Creek were Prince John and Queen Mary, for their shape agreed fairly well with their appearance in the photograph published by Mr. Wheeler in his report, and the long and steep wall between Prince

John and Prince Henry appeared to be exactly duplicated by the wall west of Tipperary Creek. We regained camp with the idea of taking the two ladies up one of these virgin peaks. Accordingly, on August 7, the whole party, save the packers, left camp at 7 and climbed to the saddle east of Mt. Back by way of Lake Back. A descent to the Tipperary Glacier led to the gap between the supposed Queen Mary and Prince John, when we quickly realised our mistake; for the whole of the Royal Group stood revealed right across a deep and beautifully wooded valley, in which we later discovered a herd of ten elk with two or three fine heads among them. I will refer to it as the ROYAL VALLEY. This discovery was a very sad blow, particularly to the ladies, who up to this time had been under the impression that they were going to make the first ascent of one of the principal peaks of the Royal Group; but nothing could be done, and we settled down to a closer examination of the country. The weather was now perfect, and every detail stood revealed. It became apparent that Mt. Queen Mary could be reached from Tipperary Glacier by circling around the peak we had taken for Queen Mary, descending into a high valley beyond, traversing it and attacking the peak from the north-west. It also looked as if access could be gained from the north-east, just to the right of the beautiful hanging glacier which entirely covers this peak on this side. Such an expedition was, however, clearly beyond the reach of the ladies and would require a bivouac at the foot of Queen Mary. After watching the animals down in the Royal Valley, admiring the Royal Group, and settling upon a mode of approach to Mt. King George, it was decided that the ladies should go back to camp with Rudolph, while Mr. Eddy and myself were to climb the false Queen Mary. When about half-way up, we found that those behind were following us. Rudolph never relished the idea of going back to camp within a few stone-throws of an unclimbed peak, and finally persuaded the ladies to let him take them up. We enjoyed a beautiful view from the summit. Mt. Assiniboine was clearly to be seen in the north. The Royal Group, immediately to the south, looked finer than ever, and Mt. Joffre, with his attendant satellites, very imposing. We descended by the north-west ridge of the false Queen Mary, traversed over to the south-east ridge of Mt. Back, crossed same and descended to the gap above Lake Back, over some very steep snow and ice which gave the ladies all the thrills they wanted. On the way down, we had a splendid

—Mt. Prince George.

—Mt. Prince Albert.

—Mt. King George.

—Mt. Prince Edward.

—Mt. Prince Henry.

—Mt. Prince John.

—Mt. Queen Mary.



**ROYAL GROUP.**

**From the North-East (Tipperary Glacier).**

view of Mt. Sir Douglas, but could not agree on the best line of ascent. From this side, the peak looked undoubtedly difficult.

The weather being very fine, and appearing settled, it was thought best to make our attempt on Mt. King George without further delay. Mr. Eddy did not feel in sufficiently good training to attempt the probably strenuous trip; so on August 8 Rudolph and I took Rob, and five horses, and descended to Palliser Lake. Up to that point the trail is well marked and presents no difficulty, but on the east side of the lake it suddenly turns east at a point where it is hardly marked, and crossing a ridge, dips down into a deep gulley, parallel to the one in which the lake is located. The slope is here very steep, the trail dropping 1000 ft. in a little more than one mile; and although fairly well marked, we found it extremely difficult to follow because of wind-fall. The whole of the Palliser Valley was burnt out many years ago and nothing but bare tree-trunks are to be seen. Their roots are, of course, decaying, and many of these trunks go down with every wind storm. Nobody had been in this district for many years. The last of the very few parties which have visited this region was probably Mr. Wheeler's when surveying the boundary, and I do not think he went beyond Le Roy Creek. Our difficulties began as soon as we stepped on to the steep slope and we advanced at a snail's pace, for it was necessary to cut a way for our horses. At one point, one of the pack-horses attempted to vault a huge trunk a little to the side of the place cut out, and losing his balance went rolling down the slope. Luckily his progress was arrested by another trunk, the pack wedging and holding the animal with all four feet in the air. It was very lucky that we had rope enough, for both front and hind legs had to be tied to trees while he was being unpacked and rope again used to enable him to rise, while repacking on that slope was also quite a job. This very horse was carrying my camera as I thought there would be nothing to photograph, whereas no better subject could have been than this cayouse at the height of its difficulties! Our struggles continued without intermission. After the 1000 ft. of steep descent, the trail became almost entirely obliterated, and the timber very much thicker and larger. We had two axes with us, but no cross-saw, which packers are averse to carrying, alleging that it cuts their ropes or the packs; but it is only necessary to cover the teeth with leather, and a saw saves a good deal of time, and in camp much wood. Rudolph kept the lead almost all day,

while I helped to chop the trees and move the scenery, Rob being kept busy with the five horses. In an awkward place near the river, another horse rolled over and the ropes again came into use. Throughout this day and the following, Rudolph proved himself a first-class woodsman and the line he selected was most certainly the best available. At that, it was difficult enough to make us often wonder whether we should ever succeed in reaching the flats. We struggled on and on without rest and when we made camp at 8.30, not far from the mouth of Le Roy Creek, we had covered a bare four miles. We camped in a swampy bottom and that night slept on willow branches, with the horses grazing all about us and porcupines creeping over the roof of our tent trying to get at our provisions.

There was a little rain during the night, but the next morning broke fine and we were off at 10 (August 9). It was a repetition of the previous day's performance, except that there was even more timber, and an almost obliterated trail. After passing the mouth of Tipperary Creek, conditions improved considerably and we made better progress. At last, at 4 p.m., we reached the creek which comes out of the Royal Valley in which we had seen the elk, and out of which the Royal Group rises (8½ miles). We had decided to make our way up this valley to the foot of Prince George. We made camp on the south side of the Royal Creek, and after a hearty meal and a little rest, Rudolph and I shouldered our packs and began our climb at 7.30 p.m. We decided to carry nothing but provisions, a sweater and a raincoat, and left Rob in charge of the camp and of the horses.

The entrance to the Royal Valley is narrowed down by steep ridges to the north and south of the creek, and the extent of it is not realised until one of these ridges has been climbed. When we had a good view of Mt. King George from the head of Tipperary Creek, we decided that the best way to attack it would be along its north ridge. The hanging glacier seen between Mts. Prince George and Prince Albert, and the ice slopes on the E. side of the north ridge of Mt. King George led us to expect to find a glacier behind Mt. Prince Albert, and between Mts. Prince George and King George. We therefore decided to climb to the flats seen east of Mt. Prince George, go round or over the latter on to our expected glacier, pass back or south of Mt. Prince Albert and thus reach the eastern slopes of the north ridge of Mt. King George. In order to reach the flats east of Mt. Prince George, it appeared

Mt. Princess Mary.

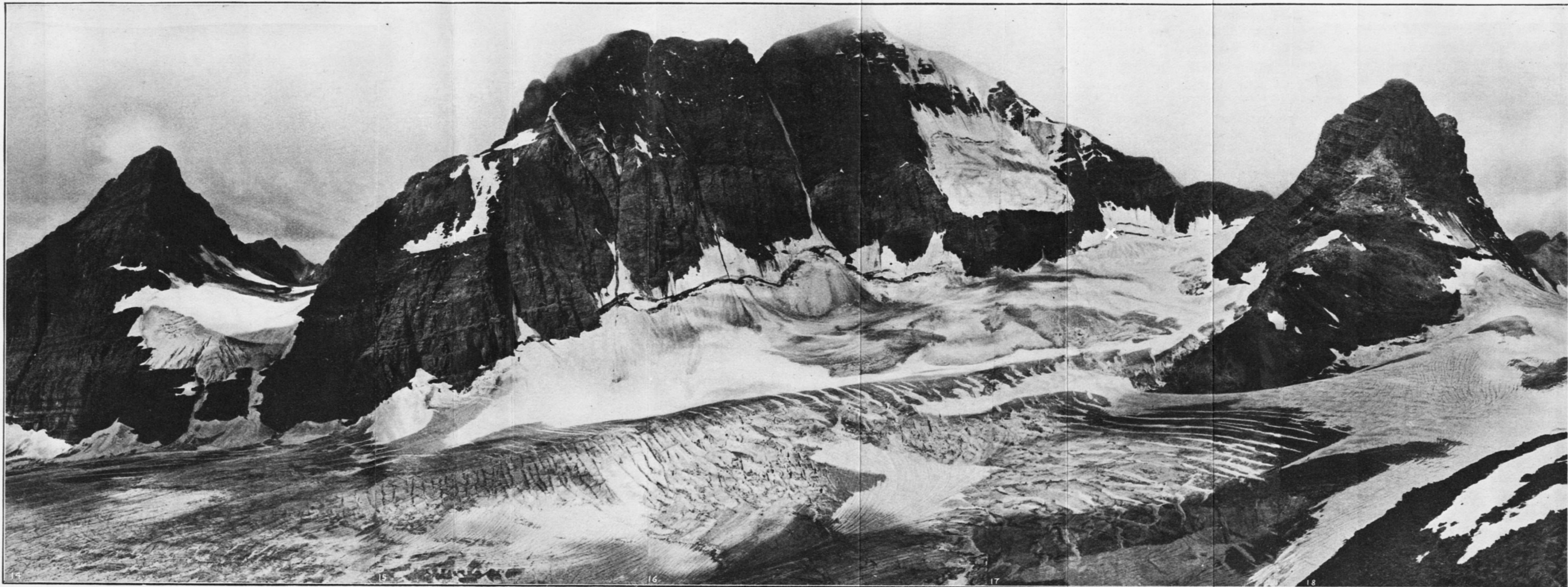
S. arête.

Mt. King George.

N. arête.

× Foot of rib by which ascent was made.

Mt. Prince Albert.



ROYAL GROUP.  
From W. slopes of Mt. Prince George.

Figs. 14 to 18

best to climb the ridge guarding the entrance to Royal Valley on the south, and this we proceeded to do. For hundreds of yards we walked on tree-trunks, without ever touching the ground, and soon realised our wisdom in abandoning the pack train. Where the slope was steep, we had to push our way up through thick undergrowth interspersed with fallen trees, so that our progress was not very rapid; while patches of large and very delicious blackberries delayed our progress still more. At the edge of the timber, we traversed in a westerly direction to where we could hear water. At 10 p.m. we stopped at about timber-line, in the first gorge west of the wooded ridge guarding the entrance to Royal Valley, made a fire, and rested until it was light enough for us to proceed. At about six o'clock on August 10, leaving some of our extra clothes, we climbed over grass slopes, screes and snow patches to the foot of a steep rock-wall, above which we could see a small and sheltered valley in which grew a few trees. A snow couloir and some steep rocks, a traverse to the east, and we stood in the little basin. This spot would make a very pleasant bivouac ground, although firewood is not very plentiful. From here we reached the flats east of Mt. Prince George without difficulty at 8.20, and after a breakfast, proceeded to cross the south ridge of this peak. We scrambled up some very loose shale slopes to the foot of a small glacier which we skirted along its north edge. This brought us to the foot of our ridge. The ascent of Mt. Prince George from this point presents no difficulty whatsoever, and we watched a goat go to the top. Not knowing just what lay on the other side, we thought it better to follow what we imagined would be the shortest line, and therefore proceeded to cross the ridge by means of a very steep snow couloir. We were delighted to find that our bold guess as to the existence of a convenient glacier south of Mt. Prince Albert was correct. A very large glacier fills the basin between Mts. Prince George, Prince Albert, King George and Princess Mary, and drops south and out of sight down a deep-cut side valley which runs into the Palliser Valley, soon after the latter makes its sharp turn to the west. The panorama reproduced was taken from this spot, reached at 10.30 a.m. The weather was very fine, but a few clouds hung around the summit of Mt. King George.

We quickly decided that our best plan was to cross what may be called King George Glacier, and try to reach the north ridge of our peak by way of the very steep, but nevertheless promising-looking rib just north (to the right) of the small hanging

glacier on the eastern slope of the mountain. The descent to the glacier, begun at 11, and its crossing, were easy. At 12.50 we stood in the pocket between Mts. Prince Albert and King George, and near the foot of our rib. After lunch we started at 1 P.M., and were soon at grips with the enormous bergschrund. Luckily, part of the upper lip had broken away, partly filling the chasm, so that we were able to cross it on a rather precarious bridge. The ice slope above the schrund was extremely steep, but luckily in good condition, and we soon reached the rocks. These proved excessively steep in the lower part of the rib, but were very firm and afforded one of the best climbs we had had anywhere in the Rockies. Unfortunately, this welcome condition did not last, the upper third of the ridge being composed of a very brittle kind of rock requiring very careful handling. In a surprisingly short time we reached the ice ridge, well seen in the photograph, which connects our rib with the north ridge of the mountain. Being in the lead, I began cutting the necessary steps, while Rudolph was making a careful survey of the surroundings, with a view to possibly improving on our route on the way back, but after a while (feeling somewhat tired, and my hands being still swollen from much handling of the axe down in the Palliser Valley) I came back and asked him to finish the job. The north ridge, which was reached at 3.15, gave us a most enjoyable climb, partly on ice and partly on rocks, with an occasional fairly difficult passage, and at 5.07 P.M. we reached the summit of Mt. KING GEORGE (11,226 ft.), being rewarded by a practically perfect view, in which the immediate neighbourhood and Mt. Joffre formed the most striking features. The rock on the lower part of the mountain is limestone, around the summit it is quartzite. After building a large stone man, and taking sundry photographs, we started down at 6 P.M. The top of the rib was reached at 7.25 and the bergschrund crossed at 8.35. We both felt somewhat disinclined to climb over the south ridge of Mt. Prince George again and very foolishly, in view of the late hour, finally decided on going round it. This route proved easier, it is true, but much longer, and the moon had been shining quite a long time when we at last reached the flats east of Mt. Prince George and began the descent to our bivouac. All the steep parts of the climb were, as luck would have it, in shadow, and our progress was difficult and slow, but at 12.55 A.M. we finally did reach our last night's bivouac. It was out of the question to negotiate the remainder of the route back to our horses during the night, so we lit another fire, brewed some coffee, and finished our provisions.

As soon as we had eaten, I crossed over to the far side of the fire, wrapped myself in my mackintosh, and Rudolph asserted next morning that I immediately fell to snoring. Towards 4, the cold woke me and I found the fire low. While rebuilding it, I noticed that friend Rudolph had dropped in his tracks and lay on his stomach, with arms over the remains of our food, sleeping soundly. He must have been a very close second.

As soon as it was light, we packed our belongings and reached our main camp shortly before 8 A.M. Rob had sat up until late, keeping a bright fire going. We now found him sound asleep, but he was up in a minute and soon prepared a most delicious meal. At 10.30 all our belongings were packed, and in beautiful weather we began our return journey to Palliser Pass. Having very carefully blazed the trail, we had no difficulty. This, however, was not entirely due to the good blazing, but to the remarkable intelligence of one of our pack-horses, a wiry little chestnut mare, who took the lead and never faltered but twice, leading us at an extremely fast pace through the maze of brulé and underbrush right back to Palliser Pass. We had more leisure to look at the scenery on this trip and found the country very interesting. Game is evidently plentiful and bear must be particularly numerous. The fire-weed grows in great profusion, and its bright red-purple colour adds much to the beauty of the scene. In many places this weed is fully 6 ft. in height, and horses entirely disappear from view. The return journey was, however, not without incident. The extremely rough going made it almost impossible to keep the cinches tight. While crossing a deep ravine, Rob's hat was knocked off by a branch. I was following him and while stooping to pick it up, my saddle slipped and I found myself on the ground, with one foot fast in the stirrup. Rob, fortunately, was able immediately to catch my horse and thus saved damage. Later, while going up a very steep bank, covered with brulé, Rob's saddle slipped back, whereupon his horse promptly kicked the saddle and Rob away down the hill. Fortunately he was not seriously hurt, although his back did come into rather abrupt contact with a large tree-trunk. Near the top of the pass, at a spot which was so steep that we all got down and led our horses, Rudolph's charger got away from him, wandered off the trail, and gave considerable trouble before it could be caught. Nevertheless we made remarkably good time, and in four hours, at 2.30 P.M., were welcomed by the rest of the party at our Palliser Pass camp.

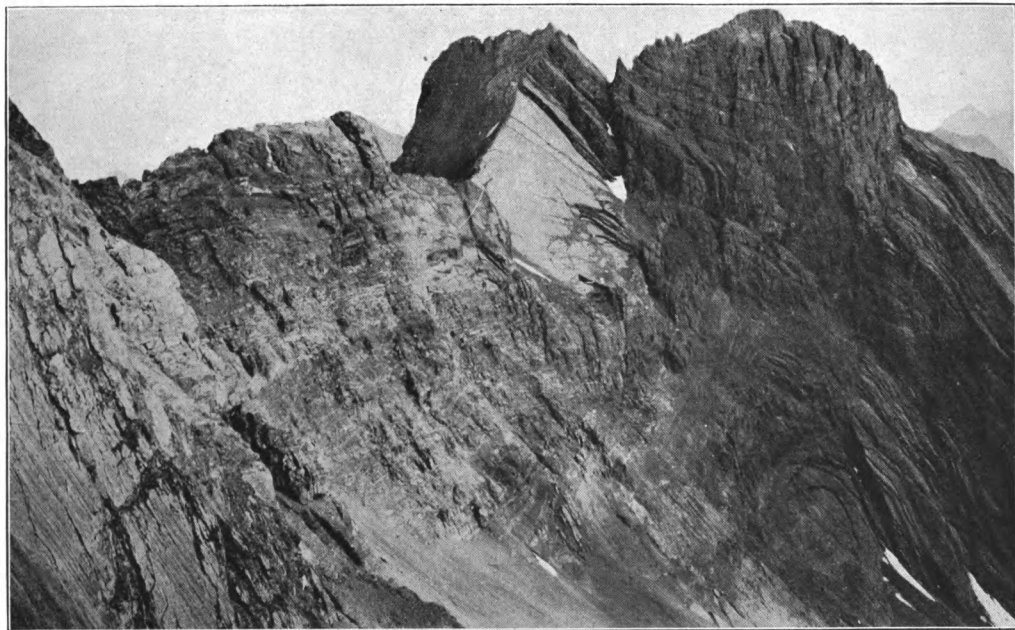
We now heard that Dr. Hixon with Ed. Feuz and a pack

train had pitched camp in Spray Valley, just below Palliser Pass, intending to ascend Sir Douglas. On our way down Palliser Valley, we had had a glimpse of its S.W. side and thought an attempt might succeed. In the hope of being the first to reach this summit, Rudolph and I left camp the following morning (August 12) at 6.30 A.M., and crossed an intervening lightly-wooded ridge to the south-west foot of the mountain. There is a deep-cut valley between the S. ridge of the peak, joining it to Mt. Monro and the S.W. ridge. (See the picture of Mt. Sir Douglas and Mt. Monro, Fig. 21.) The latter divides into two diverging ridges which enclose a pocket filled with scree, out of which protrudes a large island of solid rock. Our idea was to get into the deep-cut valley at the foot of Mt. Monro and then work our way up to the southern ridge of Sir Douglas, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the steep ice-filled gully on the W. side of the south ridge. As we approached the mountain, it seemed to us that it would be better to enter the pocket formed by the bifurcation of the S.W. ridge and to gain this ridge somewhere near the point where it divides. We were in the pocket at 8.15 A.M., and after a short rest, during which I changed into climbing shoes, we struck north and reached the W. branch of the ridge, close to where it divides, at 10.45. Progress was barred by a huge gendarme just beyond the junction, which all our efforts failed to circumvent, and we turned back at 11.20. We descended to the height of the island of rock previously referred to, then traversed above it and crossed the southerly branch of our ridge, where it forms a flat shoulder on which a long and a short strip of snow are seen in the photograph. We could now see the head of the deep-cut valley at the foot of Mt. Monro, and found that it holds a glacier which leads up to the ice couloir, the top of which is clearly seen in the photograph, and which reaches high up on the southern ridge of Sir Douglas. It was immediately evident that we were up against a very difficult problem. Had it been possible to cut one's way up the ice couloir, things might have been different, but it was now nearly one o'clock and stones were continually coming down this ice slope. The rocks above it did not look by any means easy, but they can probably be negotiated. The south face appeared to offer the only chance, so we tackled it immediately. As Rudolph had no climbing-shoes, I took the lead and struggled hard to make progress over extremely difficult and very steep rock. We reached a considerable height, but finally had to give it up, turning back at



MT. SIR DOUGLAS AND MT. MONRO.  
From slopes S.W. of Palliser Lake.

Fig. 21



MT. MONRO FROM S. FACE OF MT. SIR DOUGLAS.

Fig. 24

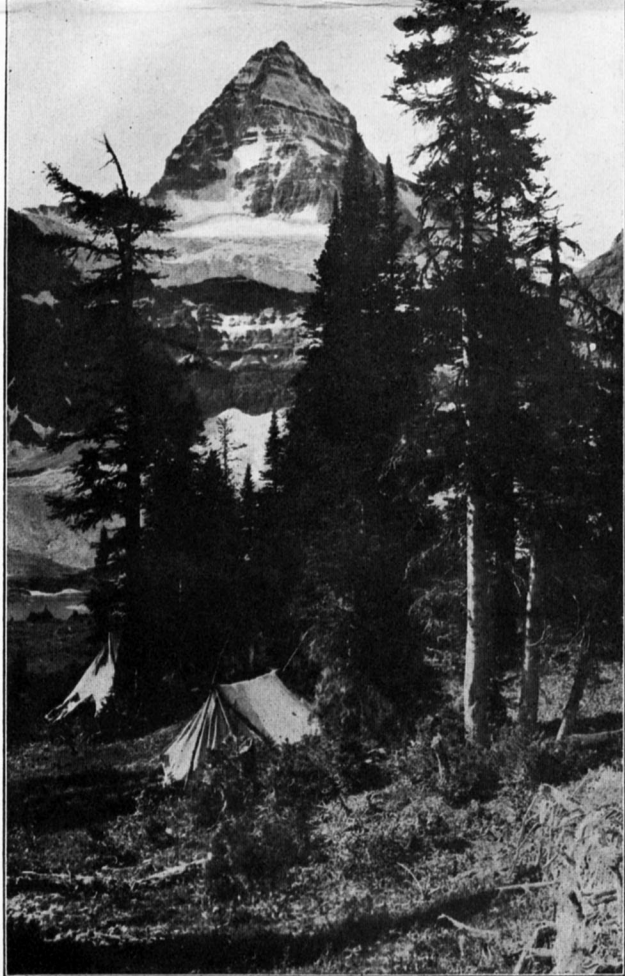
2.45, probably within 700 ft. of the summit. The descent to the glacier was by no means easy, but we finally accomplished it and followed the little valley at the foot of Mt. Monro. This mountain is of very interesting formation. It is well shown in Fig. 24. Neither of us had ever seen such vile scree, or so much of it in one valley. The Dauphiné, with its famed *éboulis*, cannot compare. At last we left the scree behind us and traversed in an upward direction, emerging close to the spot where we had entered the pocket in the morning, and reached our camp soon after six. We there learned that Ed. Feuz had taken Dr. Hixon to the summit of Sir Douglas the previous day, and that we could have seen their stone man before leaving camp, had we taken the trouble to look. It was pointed out to us now. It appears that Ed. Feuz, with Dr. Hixon and a friend of the latter, left their Spray Valley camp with a view to reconnoitring, and ascended by way of one of the glaciers on the north side of the peak. Encountering no difficulties, the party reached the summit in a very short time from camp, thus accomplishing the first ascent of this very fine peak.

As far as we could see, it would be quite difficult to approach the Royal Group from the west. Mt. Queen Mary and Mt. Prince John can undoubtedly be reached from Palliser Pass, and climbed from a bivouac north of these peaks. This bivouac could be reached from Palliser Pass in something like eight hours. It is possible that these peaks can also be reached from the Albert River Valley, but I do not know whether there is a trail in that valley, although there is one as far as Spray Pass. Mts. Princess Mary, King George, Prince George, Prince Albert, Prince Edward, and Prince Henry can all be reached from the Royal Valley, access to which can be had from the flats of the Palliser River. King George glacier can possibly be reached from the south by following the stream which flows out of the same, but to this end, it would be necessary to go down Palliser Valley beyond the point where it turns west. This, I know, will require a good deal of work, because the *brulé* is there thicker than ever. The side valley leading up to the King George glacier may also present very serious difficulties. Our observations lead us to believe that Mt. Princess Mary can readily be reached from King George glacier over its north ridge. It will probably be a good, but not difficult climb. Mt. Prince George is interesting as a view-point, but is nothing but a shale slope on the south. Both peaks of Mt. Prince Albert

can readily be reached from the head of King George glacier. Mt. Prince Edward is probably the best climb after Mt. King George. The best approach appears to be from the Royal Valley up the eastern face, to the gap between Mts. Prince Edward and Prince Henry. From this gap, both of these peaks can apparently be reached, the easiest approach to either being from the west, which means a traverse from the crest of the main ridge to the western ridges. Mt. Queen Mary will probably afford another fine climb next in difficulty to Mt. Prince Edward. The easiest approach appears to be from the west, the next best route from the north-east. Mt. Prince John is really nothing but a second summit of Queen Mary, and can readily be reached from the latter. The ideal way of exploring this group would be to take a pack train up the Royal Valley and make camp near timber-line, at the foot of Mt. Prince Edward, exploring the southern end of the group, and then move camp to the highest and northerly part of the Royal Valley, from which Queen Mary and Prince John could be climbed. A good deal of work will, however, be required to cut a trail to the first camp, and it may not be altogether easy to take the horses to the second. The upper part of the Royal Valley is very beautifully—but rather thickly—timbered, and big game is very plentiful.

#### MT. ASSINIBOINE—11,870 ft.

The next day, August 13, we all worked hard to break camp, and get away as soon as possible. The ladies and Mr. Eddy had enjoyed their stay on the shores of the beautiful Belgium lake very much indeed, but were now ready to move on. We started at 11 in a light rain and made our way rapidly down the Spray Valley, our intention being to camp that night high up in Bryant Creek, somewhere near Marvel Lake. We kept to the east side of the Spray River all the way to the two sets of teepee poles which stand on the camping ground near the point where Currie Creek runs into the Spray (2 to 2.15), crossed to the west side of the river, and soon branched off into Bryant Creek. The weather showed signs of improvement and we made good progress, although we lost a little time at the entrance to Bryant Creek because some of the ponies insisted upon following the Spray. To the surprise of everybody, we reached the camping ground near Marvel Lake (17.5 miles) at 4.40, leaving us plenty of time to walk to the knoll, from which such a beautiful view



*For titles see end of article.*

Fig. 25

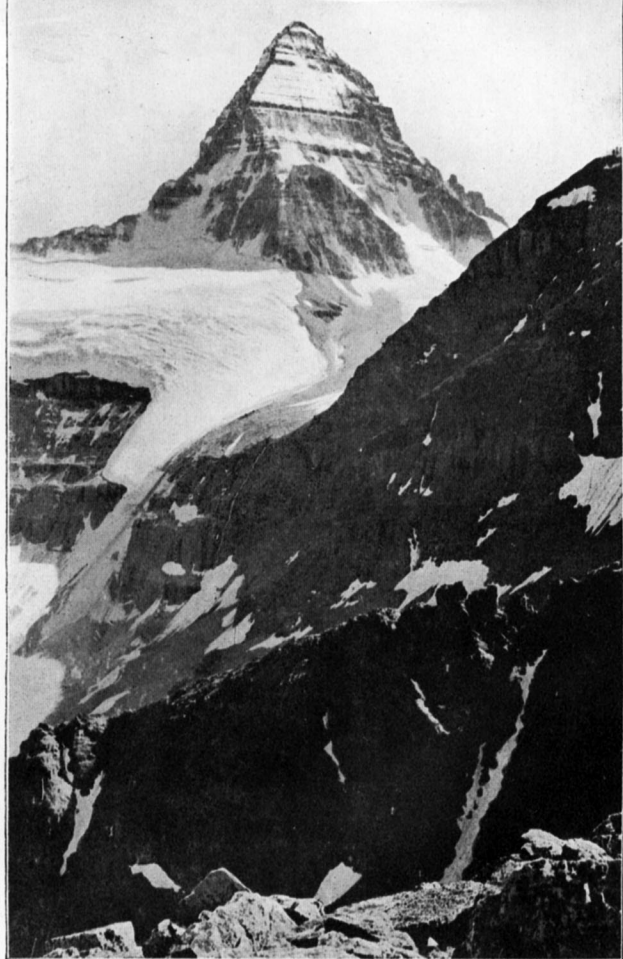


Fig. 27

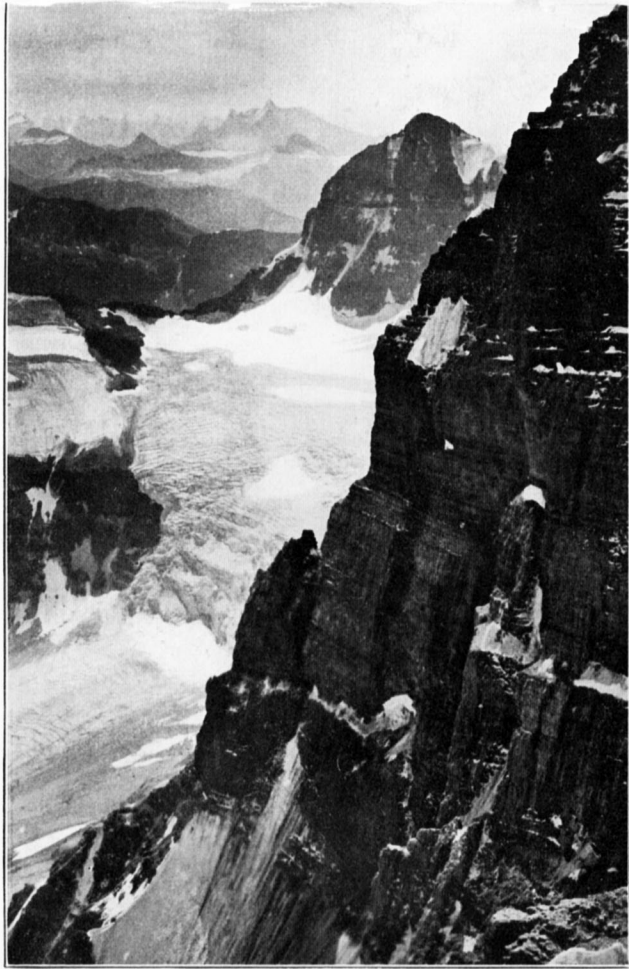


Fig. 28

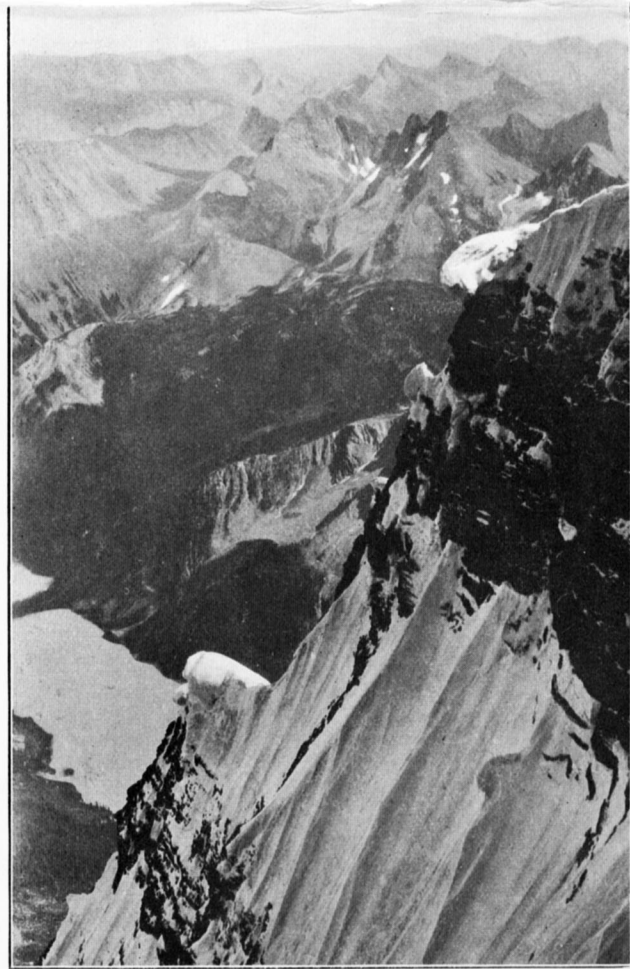


Fig. 29

is had of Marvel Lake and the Assiniboine Group, comprising MTS. GLORIA, EON (10,860 ft.), AYE (10,640 ft.) and ASSINIBOINE.<sup>3</sup> The clouds still hung around Assiniboine, but otherwise everything was clear and appeared in a very beautiful light. Knowing that we were within a short distance of our next camping ground near Lake Magog, on the north side of Mt. Assiniboine, we only left camp at noon (August 14) and leaving Allenby Creek on the right, skirted Gibraltar and Cascade rocks and climbed the partly steep trail leading to Assiniboine Pass (7152 ft.).<sup>4</sup> From this point the trail winds in and out through nearly level green meadows, with occasional patches of trees, and with Mt. Assiniboine in full view all the time. We found a beautiful camping ground after a ride of two-and-one-half hours, a little north of Lake Magog<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 25) in a little grove of pine trees (8 miles). Towards the evening all the clouds cleared away, and Mt. Assiniboine was revealed in its full glory.

August 15 proved to be the most perfect day of the whole tour, the air was cool and there was not a cloud to be seen. It would have been an ideal day to attempt Mt. Assiniboine; but we preferred to put off the ascent until the morrow, and the whole party walked into the Sunburst Valley, just north of Mt. Marshall, in which lie the pretty little lakes called Sunburst and Cerulean. Rudolph and I detached ourselves and ascended Mt. Marshall, selecting a fancy route just for the sake of a little exercise. The view of Mt. Assiniboine from this little peak is particularly attractive.

On August 16, Mr. Eddy, Rudolph, and I, left camp at 4.45 on our way to Mt. Assiniboine by the north ridge. At 5.05 we reached the foot of Wedgwood Peak and scrambled up the rocks of a somewhat steep wall, gradually traversing to the left (south-east) and finally reaching the glacier at the north foot of Mt. Assiniboine (7.40-7.55). At 8.40 we were on the lowest rocks of the north ridge, and a few minutes later stopped 20 min. for breakfast. Thereupon we ascended by the north-west face, gradually working onto the north ridge and following it to the summit. There are two very distinct and almost perpendicular cliffs, which divide the north-west face and the north ridge into distinct sections.

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\* See the picture p. 52 of the Report of the Boundary Commission.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 51, 55.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* p. 56.

These rock walls provide some very pretty climbing. The ridge above the second wall is also quite interesting. The rest of the climbing is, as a rule, quite easy. On this occasion we had, however, to contend with a good deal of ice, which necessitated much step-cutting and occasioned much loss of time. It was not until 2.50 that the main summit was reached. At 3.20 we were back on the lower or north summit, which is of rock, rested there until 4.15, and then retraced our steps, reaching the glacier at 8.45. By the time we got onto the steep wall of Wedgwood Peak it was too dark to proceed, and it was necessary for us to bivouac in full view of the enormous camp fire, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles down the valley, which our friends kept going far into the night. The next morning (August 17), we were back in camp at 6.30 A.M., and since the two main objects of our trip had been achieved, and Mr. Eddy's available time was fast running out, it was decided to break camp that same day and try to reach Banff on the 18th. Accordingly we left at 5 P.M., riding in the direction of Assiniboine Pass, but turned north into Og Creek, rode past Og Lake into the Valley of Rocks and down into Golden Valley, where we pitched camp at 6.55 near Big Spring (8 miles). On August 18, we left camp at 8.45, went past Porcupine Camp with its pole teepee, up to Citadel Pass, on to Simpson summit and down into Healy Creek, stopping at Cold Spring camp (10 miles) from 12.45 to 2.15, and reaching Banff Springs Hotel after a long day at 7.30 P.M. (23 miles from Big Spring). The whole party immediately proceeded to the Sulphur Pool, and, after a delightful dinner, took the night train back to Lake Louise where we arrived about 1 P.M., all very pleased with a most delightful trip.

All of the country above referred to is well shown on sheets 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13, of the Alberta and British Columbia Boundary Atlas.

V. A. FYNN.

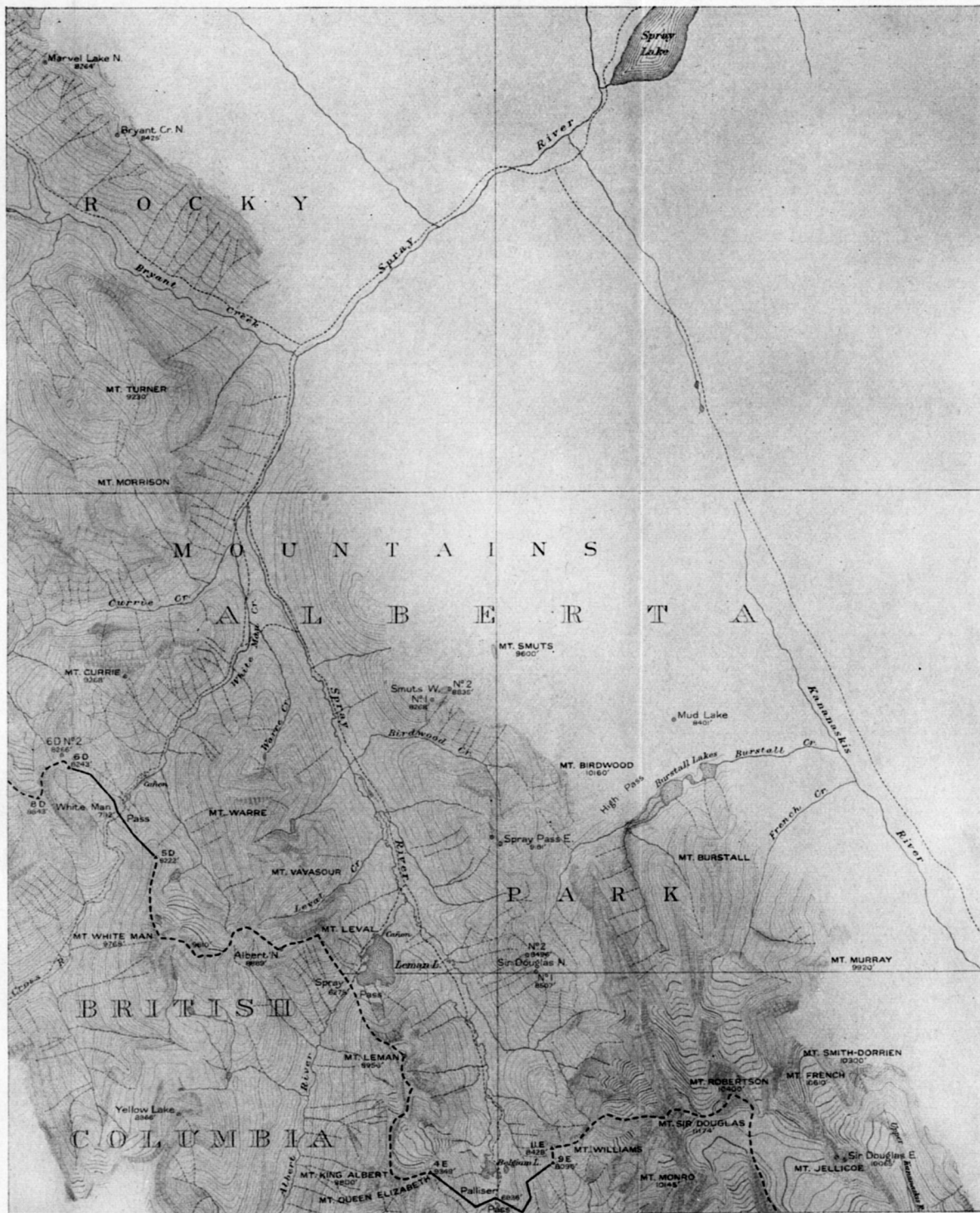
*Titles to Photographs.*

- FIG. 25.—N. face of Mt. Assiniboine from Camp near Lake Magog.  
FIG. 27.—Mt. Assiniboine from Mt. Marshall.  
FIG. 28.—East Ridge of Mt. Assiniboine and Mt. Gloria.  
FIG. 29.—East Ridge of Mt. Assiniboine with Lake Gloria and Lake Terrapin.



12	11
	10

MT. ASSINIBOINE DISTRICT.  
 Boundary Commission Atlas Sheet 12.  
 (Scale 2 miles to 1 inch.)



12	11
	10

MT. SIR DOUGLAS DISTRICT.  
 Boundary Commission Atlas Sheet 11.  
 (Scale 2 miles to 1 inch.)



12	11
	10

ROYAL GROUP DISTRICT.  
Boundary Commission Atlas Sheet 10.  
(Scale 2 miles to 1 inch)